

P.G. #80-18

1902, 1927, 1975

Grace Methodist Church

11700 Old Fort Road, Chapel Hill, Md.

Priv/Occ/Relig/Good

Only the main part of the old Grace Methodist Church remains: until 1975 it was a gable-roofed four-bay frame structure with a bell tower at the northwest corner, and entrance through a double door in the west side of the tower. When the new brick church was built to the north, the bell tower was demolished (the bell is now housed in a lattice cote), the pointed-arch windows were squared off, and the old church building was completely sheathed with aluminum siding.

As early as 1874 a school for Black children was built in a small Black community in the Piscataway District, and Methodist services were also held there. Within a few years, a small church building was erected just north of the school, and in 1883, the two acres upon which it stood were deeded to six Black trustees of the "Methodist Episcopal Church on Chapel Hill." These two structures were the focal point of the Chapel Hill community. In 1902, immediately south of the original church, a new church was built (the original form of the present frame church). This church was renovated in 1927, and, in 1975, the modern brick church was built on the site of the original 19th Century church structure. A breezeway was constructed to connect the new church with the old. Although the 1902 building is now greatly altered, and the original church and school buildings are gone, the site was an important focal point in a still-surviving post-Civil War Black community.

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. P.G.#80-18

Magi No. 1703364708

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Grace Methodist Church (and school site)

and/or common Church and School at Chapel Hill

2. Location

street & number 11700 Old Fort Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Chapel Hill ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county P.G.

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Grace Methodist Church

street & number 11700 Old Fort Road telephone no.: 292-9807

city, town Chapel Hill state and zip code Maryland 20744

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber JWB #3

street & number Main Street folio 190

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. #80-18

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Only the main part of the Church building remains.

Up until 1975 this was a gable-roofed 4-bay frame church structure with a bell tower at the northwest corner. Entrance was through a double door (with pointed-arch transom window) in the west side of the tower. There were four pointed-arch windows in the north and south sides, ^{and} three bays in the west gable end (the center, taller, window with rounded arch flanked by two pointed arch windows). The whole building was covered with asphalt shingle.

When the new (modern, one-story, brick) church was built to the north, the bell tower of the old church was demolished (the bell is now housed in a lattice cote just north of the entrance to the new church), the windows were squared off, and the old church building was completely sheathed with aluminum siding.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #80-18

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History |

Specific dates 1902, 1927, 1975 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

As early as 1874, a school for Negro children was built in a small black community in the Piscataway District and under the leadership of "Father" Jeremiah Brown, Methodist services were held either in this school building or in nearby homes. Some time before 1883, a small church building was erected. Gable roofed, frame, with a belfry at the ridge and entry through a small vestibule at the gable end, it stood just a short distance north of the school building. In October 1883, Jesse Edelen deeded the 2 acres on which it stood to six Black trustees (William H. Shorter, Jeremiah Brown, Jeremiah Butler, Henry Thomas, Henry Hemsly, and John Marshall) of the "Methodist Episcopal Church on Chapel Hill", which the community had come to be called. These two structures were the focal point of the Chapel Hill community.

In 1902, immediately south of the original structure, a new church was built, i.e., the original form of the present frame church. It was a gable-roofed structure, four bays wide, and served the congregation (now known as Grace Methodist) for 25 years. At that time (ca. 1927), money was raised to redesign and repair the church. (It was probably at this time that the bell tower was added at the northwest corner, and entry shifted to the west side of the bell tower; the bell which went into the tower came from the Fort Foote elementary school.) The reconstructed church was rededicated in 1928.

The modern brick church was built in 1975 on the site of the original 19th century church structure. The bell tower of the preceding building was removed, and a breeze-way was constructed to connect the new church with the old. The pointed arch windows of the old church were squared off and the old structure was sheathed in aluminum; a lattice cote was constructed north of the new church to house the bell from the dismantled bell tower.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G.#80-18

P.G. Co. Deeds: JWB #3:190

Souvenir Program, 50th Anniversary Grace Methodist Church, 1952

Consecration Service (booklet) 1975

Interview with pastor, historian and members of congregation, March 1983

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl

organization History Division, M-NCPPC

date March 1983

street & number 4811 Riverdale Rd.

telephone 779-2011

city or town Riverdale,

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

1703364608

*A.A. #80-18

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-------------------------|---|--|
| 1. NAME | | | | | |
| COMMON: Grace Methodist Church | | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: Chapel Hill Methodist Episcopal Church | | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Old Fort Road | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill | | | | | |
| STATE: Maryland | | | COUNTY: Prince George's | | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: Trustees of Grace Methodist Church | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: Old Fort Road | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Oxon Hill | | | STATE: Maryland | | |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro | | | STATE: Maryland | | |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): | | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: None | | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | | |

| 7. DESCRIPTION | |
|---|---|
| CONDITION | (Check One) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered </div> <div> (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site </div> </div> |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | |
| <p>The church is a frame structure with a gable-end main (west) facade and a tower at the northwest corner. The doorway is in the front of the tower; above is a louvered window at the second story. The gable end has a round headed window flanked by pointed-arched windows. In the gable is a circular window.</p> | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Historic

☐ Agriculture

☐ Architecture

☐ Art

☐ Commerce

☐ Communications

☐ Conservation

☐ Education

☐ Engineering

☐ Industry

☐ Invention

☐ Landscape

☐ Architecture

☐ Literature

☐ Military

☐ Music

☐ Political

☐ Religion/Phi-

losophy

☐ Science

☐ Sculpture

☐ Social/Human-

itarian

☐ Theater

☐ Transportation

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Other (Specify)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INST RUCIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

PROPERTY FILED IN 60-100-101

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
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| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
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| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | ° ' " | ° ' " | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian | |
| ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC | DATE 12 Dec 73 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue | |
| CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring | STATE Maryland |

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

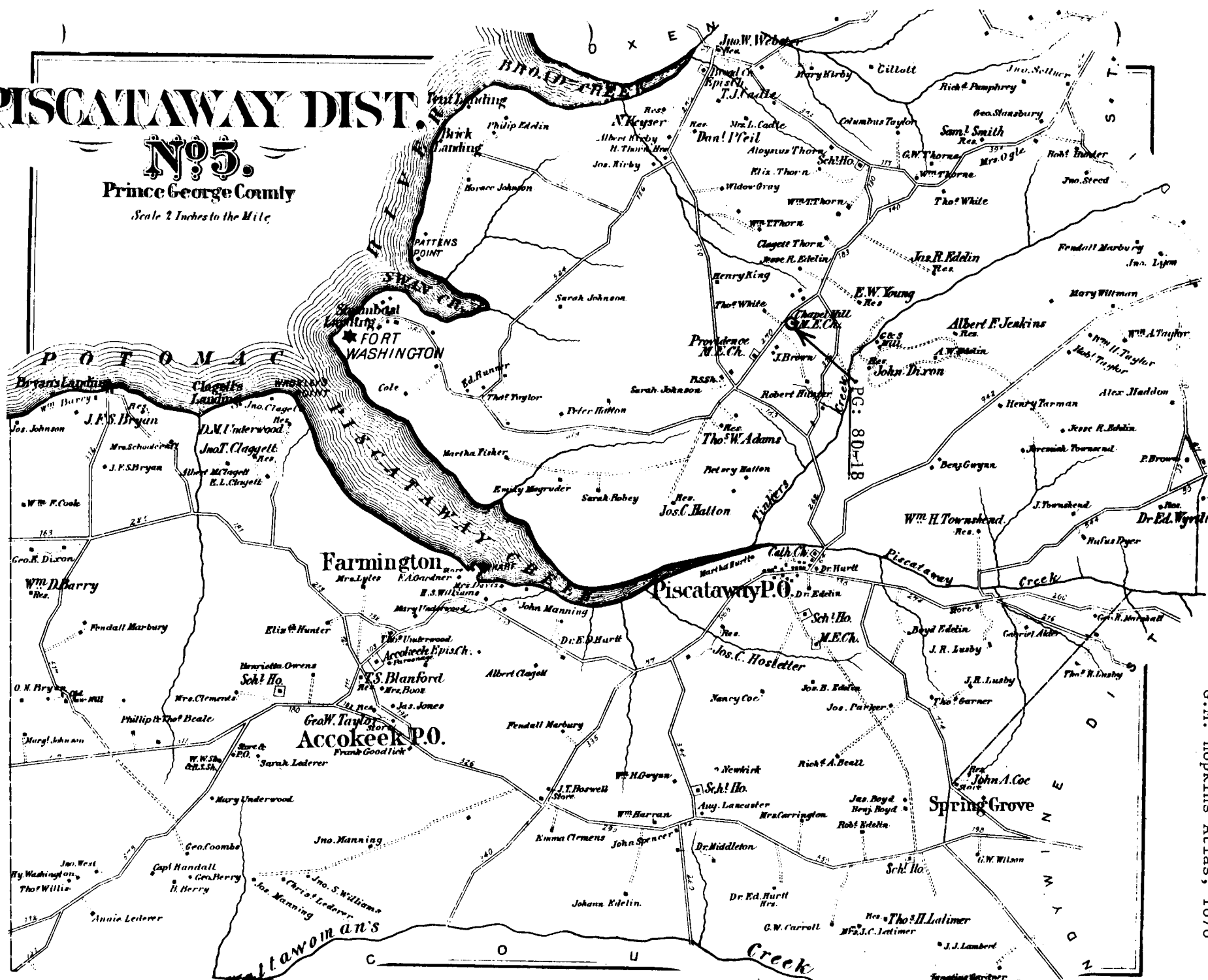
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

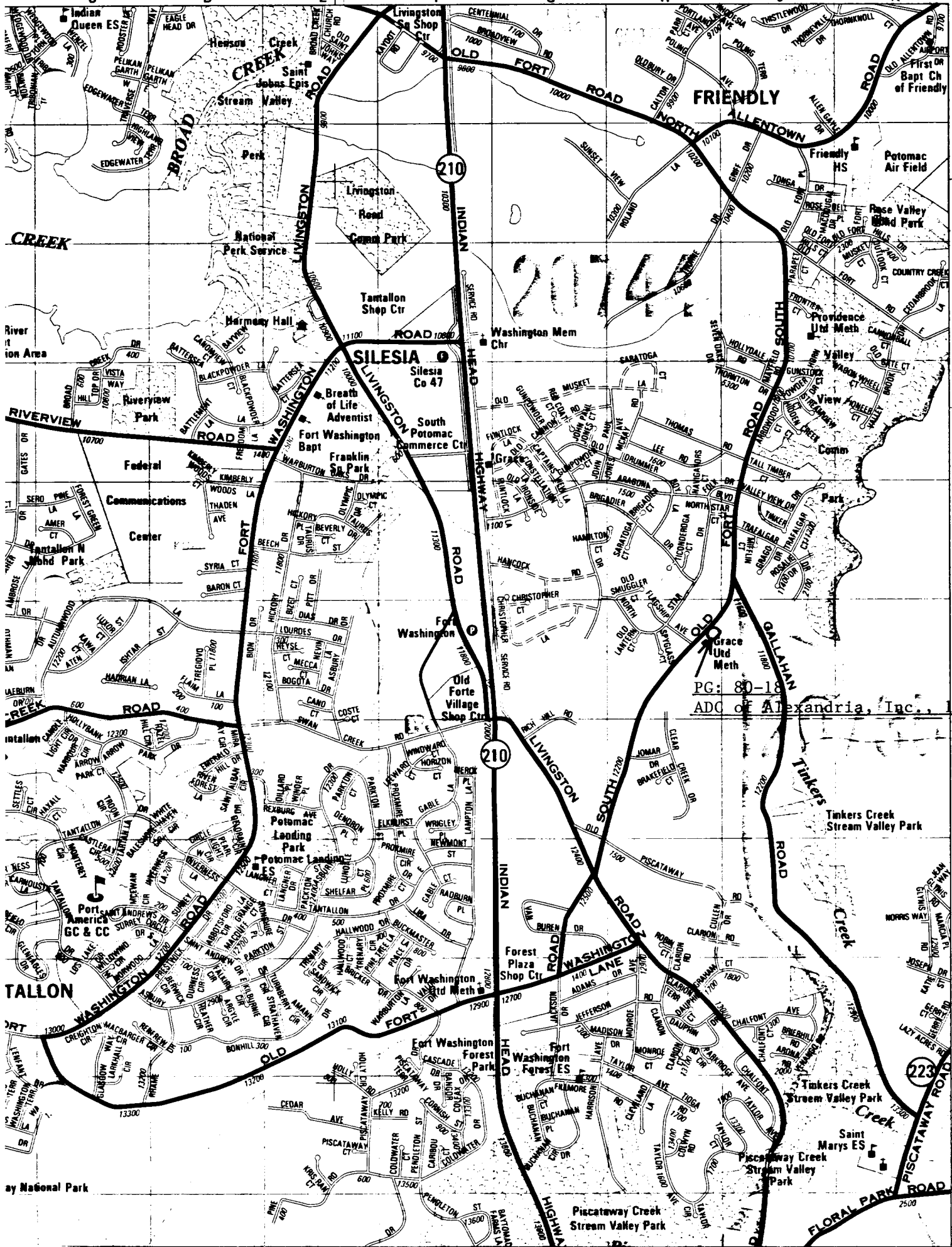
PISCATAWAY DIST.

Nº 5.

Prince George County

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile





38°45'00"

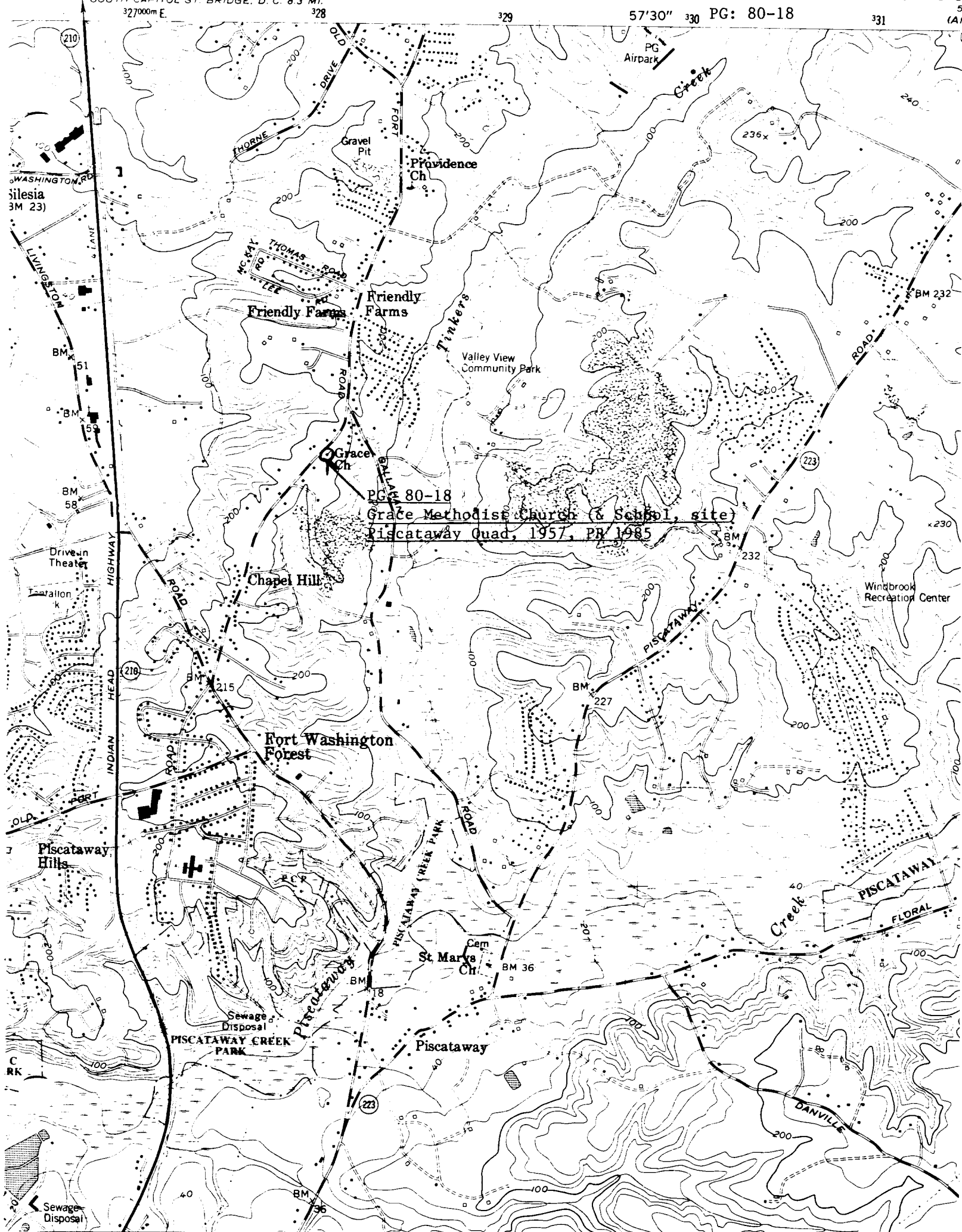
330,000 FT

Joins Map 31

MD GRID 320,000 FT

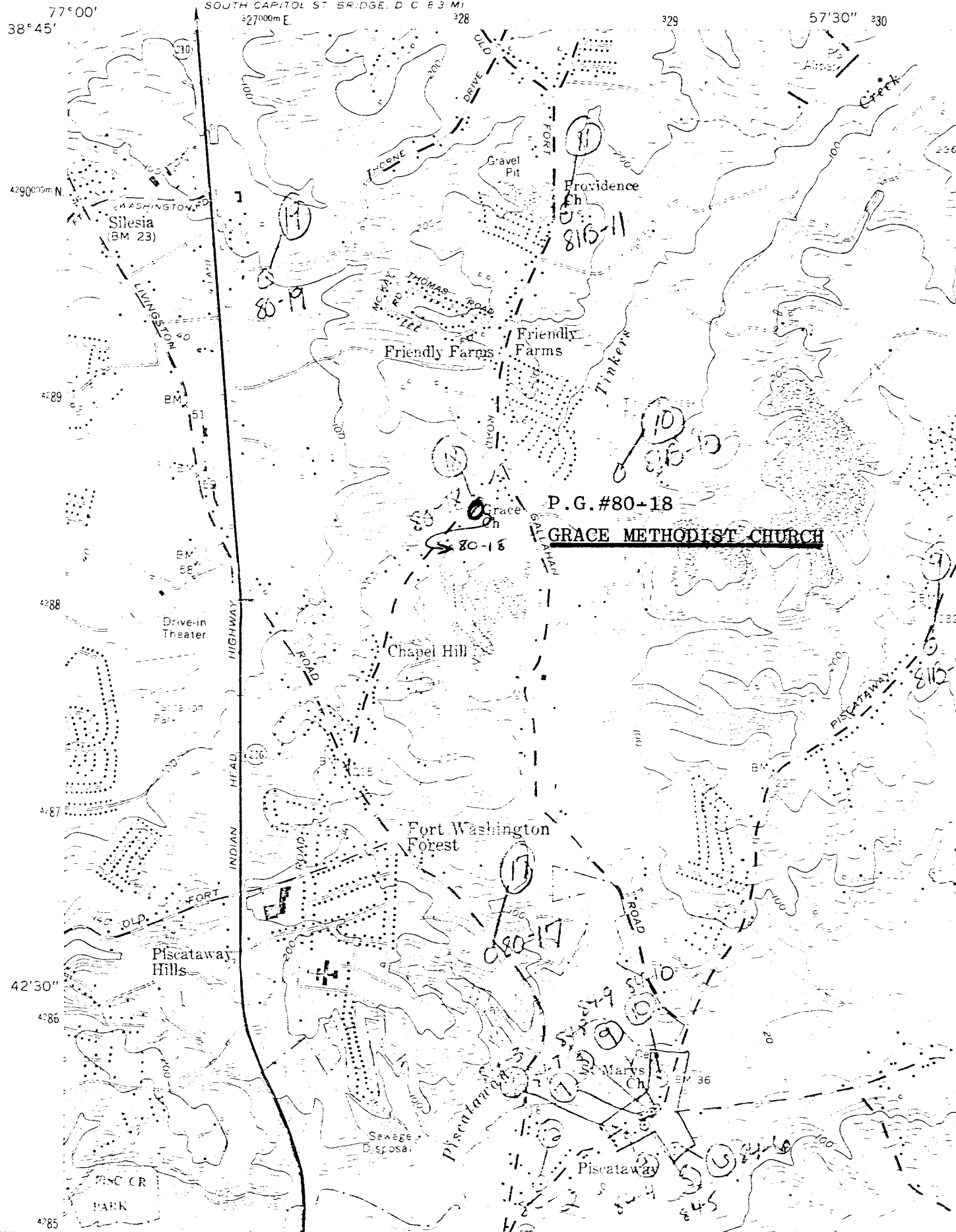
38°42'30"

PG: 80-18
ADC of Alexandria, Inc., 1993



9501 SE
(ALEXANDRIA)

SOUTH CAPITOL ST BRIDGE. D C 83 MI
327000m E. 32





NAME CHAPEL HILL M.E. CHURCH

LOCATION OLD FORT RD. FRIENDLY, MD

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER



P. G. #80-18

Grace Methodist Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #80-18

Grace Methodist Church
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #80-18

Chapel Hill Cemetery
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
View to east
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME OLD SCHOOL HOUSES AT CHAPEL HILL M.E. CHURCH

LOCATION OLD FORT Rd FRIENDLY, MD

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 M. DWYER